

Serial No.: 10/005,469  
Filed: November 7, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 1648

### REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy shown by the Examiner in providing suggestions for amendments to the claims.

To make consideration of claims easier, pending claims have been canceled and replaced with the new set of claims (claims 23-30). New claim 23 corresponds to old claim 9, written in independent form; new claims 24-27 correspond to old claim 5; new claim 28 corresponds to old claim 12; new claim 29 corresponds to old claim 17; and new claim 30 corresponds to new claim 23 as suggested in the Amendment after the Final Rejection and draft Examiner's Amendment.

The present amendment incorporates the suggestions provided in the draft Examiner's Amendment received on December 6, 2004 and also suggestions provided by the Examiner during the telephone conferences on December 9 and December 10, 2004.

No new subject matter has been added as a result of these amendments, no new search is required, and no new issues are raised. Applicants note for the record that the present amendments are made solely to expedite the prosecution and not as an admission of lack of patentability of the canceled claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue canceled subject matter in a continuing application.

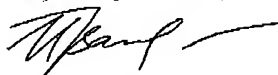
Applicants request entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks in the file history of this application. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 23-30 are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation would help advance the prosecution in this case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned agent at (212) 527-7634. The

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Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this response to our  
Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 10, 2004

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